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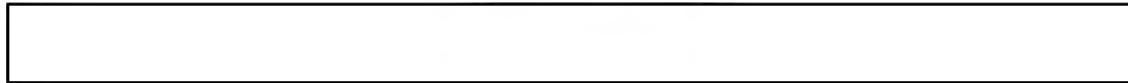


20 November 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Morocco-Algeria: The Addis Ababa conference of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which closed on 18 November, appears to have put a temporary damper on the Moroccan-Algerian border dispute.

The conference selected a seven-nation commission--Ethiopia, Mali, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Sudan, Tanganyika and Nigeria--which is supposed to establish responsibility for the commencement of hostilities and to submit proposals for a settlement. The commission will meet first on 2 December in the Ivory Coast and may be ready to report its findings to the next OAU foreign ministers' meeting in Nigeria in February.

The acting Ethiopian foreign minister has told the US ambassador that the parties had reached "a kind of understanding" to limit arms deliveries during this cooling-off period. Neither Algeria nor Morocco, however, is likely to cease strengthening its military forces for a possible showdown.

The next two or three months will provide time for Egyptian and other foreign instructors now in Algeria to train Algerian forces to use the equipment provided in the past six weeks by Egypt, Cuba, and the USSR: Morocco, too, can be expected to expedite its existing training programs.

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Cambodia: (Prince Sihanouk's suspicions of external plotting against him, which underlie his announced refusal to accept further US aid, appear to be intensifying.)

(At a mass rally in Phnom Penh yesterday, Sihanouk surfaced two alleged agents of the dissident Khmer Serei (Free Cambodia) movement who "confessed" to having received US and South Vietnamese support for anti-Sihanouk operations. Sihanouk used the occasion to whip up popular support for his renunciation of all US aid and his demands for the withdrawal of US military and civilian advisers.)

(Sihanouk's latest outburst may have been triggered by rumors from Saigon that an anti-Sihanouk coup was imminent. In addition, clandestine Khmer Serei transmitters, which Sihanouk previously had made a central issue, resumed broadcasting on 16 November after being silent earlier in the month. The Khmer Serei in reality appears to have little capability for action against Sihanouk's regime.)

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Thailand: (Persistent rumors that Prime Minister Sarit's health is deteriorating have stimulated concern among Thai officials over the succession problem.)

(While the present rumors may be overdrawn, Sarit has been indisposed for the past several weeks and has long suffered from an incurable liver ailment.)

(In late 1960, Sarit designated Defense Minister and Deputy Premier Thanom Kittikachorn to succeed him as prime minister if he should die or become incapacitated. In a further attempt to avoid a power struggle, Sarit named a leading Thai general, Krit Sriwara, to succeed him in his role as over-all military commander.)

(Sarit's wishes probably were never given more than lip service by the other members of the military oligarchy. Maneuvering for power and place has continued, and a sharp struggle over the succession would be likely.)

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NOTES

Chile: Chile is favorably considering a Chinese Communist offer to buy 10,000 tons of copper worth \$6 million. This is the first significant commercial offer since 1959 when China evidenced great interest in Chilean nitrates. Public disclosure of the deal while still under preliminary negotiation has upset Chilean officials who probably fear an adverse US reaction.

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DAILY BRIEF

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Japan: Premier Hayato Ikeda's ruling Liberal-Democratic Party seems virtually assured of retaining a safe majority in tomorrow's general election for the lower house of the Diet. The opposition has tried, apparently without much success, to capitalize on rising consumer prices and to hold the government responsible for the mine and railway disasters earlier this month. Leftist parties will probably maintain the long-term trend of a gradual increase in their percentage of the popular vote.

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